



Gary W. Rossow
Director
Government Technical Affairs

May 26, 1999

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Office of Defects Investigation, Room 5326
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
400 Seventh St., S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Attn: Jonathan D. White

Subject: Information Report, NHTSA No. 99V-055.002

In accordance with Part 573.5, Freightliner Corporation herewith submits an information report supplying supplemental information and copies of documents distributed to dealers and purchasers.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Gary W. Rossow".

Gary W. Rossow

Cc: Michael Mason, CAL-OSHA

Certified Mail No.

DEFECT INFORMATION REPORT

SUPPLEMENTAL NO. 2

DATE: May 26, 1999
FREIGHTLINER CAMPAIGN NO: FL-231
NHTSA NO: 99V-055.002

TO: Associate Administrator for Enforcement
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
Washington, D.C. 20590

1. FROM: FREIGHTLINER CORPORATION
P.O. BOX 3849
Portland, Oregon 97208
(503) 735-8078

3. NUMBER OF VEHICLES POTENTIALLY AFFECTED: (Revise to read) 284

8. ATTACHMENTS:
Recall Bulletin to Dealers
Notification to Owners
Owner notification began on 5/24/99 and was completed 5/24/99

Certified Mail No P 335 662 628

May 1999
FL231ABC U.S.
FC131ABC Canada**ATTENTION: SERVICE MANAGER****Subject: Meritor Automatic Slack Adjusters****MODELS AFFECTED:** Freightliner, Sterling and Freightliner Custom Chassis specific vehicles manufactured in January 1999, which were equipped with Meritor automatic slack adjusters (ASAs).**GENERAL INFORMATION**

It has determined that a defect which relates to motor vehicle safety exists on the above mentioned vehicles.

There are approximately 314 vehicles involved in this campaign.

The automatic slack adjuster guide pawl may not have been tightened to the specified torque value. Gradual loss of adjustment in service due to normal brake wear may occur, in which case the effectiveness of the unadjusted brake would be reduced.

The modification consists of inspecting the suspect automatic slack adjuster guide pawl and torquing it to specification, if necessary.

WORK INSTRUCTIONS

Please refer to the attached work instructions.

REPLACEMENT PARTS

Replacement kits are not required.

REMOVED PARTS

There are no removed parts.

LABOR ALLOWANCE

The labor allowance is the same for an inspection and/or modification.

Refer to Table 1 for labor allowance.

Campaign Number	Procedure	Time Allowed (hours)	SRT Code	Damage Code
FL231ABC/FC131ABC	Guide pawl cap tightening	0.6	996-0290A	000-Modifiedx

Table 1

IMPORTANT: When the modification has been completed, affix a completion sticker to the vehicle (Form W-147), referencing the modification number and date the work was performed.

CLAIMS FOR CREDIT

You will be reimbursed for your labor and handling by submitting your claim through the Alliance Warranty system. Please reference **FL231ABC/FC131ABC** in the FSDOC field and 25-FL231-000 in the primary failed part number field on each claim.



A Division of **FREIGHTLINER**
CORPORATION

Recall

Recall Bulletin

May 1989
FL231ABC U.S.
FC131ABC Canada

NOTE: ServicePro®/Service Advisor® must be viewed prior to performing the modification to ensure the vehicle is involved and the modification has not been previously completed. Also, it is important to check for a completion sticker prior to performing the modification.

Freightliner provides the following methods to determine if a vehicle is involved in any campaigns:

1. On-line Service Advisor®
2. On-line ServicePro®
3. Contact the Alliance Recall Department at 1-800-547-0712, from 7:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Pacific Time, or the Alliance Customer Assistance Center at 1-503-735-7877 after normal business hours, if you have any questions or need additional information.

To return excess kit inventory related to this campaign, please submit a Parts Authorization Request (PAR), to the Chicago PDC. All PAR requests must include the original purchase invoice number.

The letter notifying vehicle owners is included for your reference.

Please note that the National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act as amended (49 USC) requires the owner's vehicle(s) be corrected within a reasonable time after parts are available to you. The act states that failure to repair a vehicle within 60 days after tender for repair shall be prima facie evidence of an unreasonable time. However, circumstances of a particular situation may reduce the 60 day period. Failure to repair a vehicle within a reasonable time can result in either the obligation to (a) replace the vehicle with an identical or reasonably equivalent vehicle, without charge, or (b) refund the purchase price in full, less a reasonable allowance for depreciation. The act further prohibits dealers from selling a vehicle unless all outstanding recalls are performed. Also, any lessor is required to send a copy of the recall notification to the lessee.

Finally, the Act states that a remedy need not be provided without charge if the vehicle was bought by the first purchaser more than eight (8) calendar years before notice is given.

ALLIANCE WARRANTY OPERATIONS (RECALL)



May 1999
FL231ABC U.S.
FC131ABC Canada

Copy of Letter to Owner

Subject: Meritor Automatic Slack Adjusters

Dear Vehicle Owner:

This notice is sent to you in accordance with the requirements of the National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act and the Canadian Motor Vehicles Safety Act.

It has been determined that a defect, which relates to motor vehicle safety, exists on Freightliner, Sterling and Freightliner Custom Chassis specific vehicles manufactured in January 1999, which were equipped with Meritor automatic slack adjusters (ASAs).

The automatic slack adjuster guide pawl may not have been tightened to the specified torque value. Gradual loss of adjustment in service due to normal brake wear may occur, in which case the effectiveness of the unadjusted brake would be reduced.

The modification consists of inspecting the suspect automatic slack adjuster guide pawl and torquing it to specification, if necessary.

You should immediately contact your Freightliner dealer to arrange to have your vehicle(s) modified. When you contact your dealer, reference campaign number FL231ABC/FC131ABC. Please allow approximately 0.5 hour to have this modification completed. This modification will be performed at no charge to you.

IMPORTANT: When the modification has been completed on your vehicle, please ensure that a sticker has been affixed above the center of the driver's door, referencing FL231ABC/FC131ABC and the date the work was performed.

If you do not own the vehicle that corresponds to the Identification number(s) which appear on the Recall Notification, please return the notification to the Alliance Recall Department with any information you can furnish that will assist us in locating the present owner. If you have leased this vehicle, please make sure this notification is immediately forwarded to the lessee.

If you are unable to have the defect remedied without charge and within a reasonable time after you tender the vehicle for repair, please contact the Alliance Recall Department, at 1-800-547-0712, 7:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Pacific Time, or the Alliance Customer Assistance Center, at 1-800-FTL-HELP after normal business hours. You may also wish to notify the Administrator, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 400 7th Street S.W., Washington, D.C. 20590, or phone 1-800-424-9393. If your vehicle is involved in the Canadian portion, you may notify the Manager, Recall and Public Compliance, Road and Motor Vehicle Traffic Safety Branch, Transport Canada, Ottawa, Ontario, or phone (613) 993-9851.

We regret any inconvenience this action may cause, but feel certain you understand our interest in motor vehicle safety.

ALLIANCE WARRANTY OPERATIONS (RECALL)

Enclosure



A Division of **FREIGHTLINER**
CORPORATION

Recall

Recall Bulletin

May 1999
FL231ABC U.S.
FC131ABC Canada

Work Instructions

Subject: Meritor Automatic Slack Adjusters

MODELS AFFECTED: Freightliner, Sterling and Freightliner Custom Chassis specific vehicles manufactured in January 1999, which were equipped with Meritor automatic slack adjusters (ASAs).

GUIDE PAWL CAP TIGHTENING

1. Park the vehicle on a level surface, shut down the engine, and chock the tires. Check the vehicle for a completion sticker (Form W-147). If a sticker is not found, proceed to the next step.

If the completion sticker is found, no further work is needed. Remove the chocks.

2. Using a torque wrench and 3/4-inch (9-mm) socket, tighten the slack adjuster guide pawl caps 15 to 20 lbf-ft (20 to 27 N.m).

NOTE: The location of the guide pawl can vary. See Fig. 1.

3. When the work is completed, clean a spot and attach a completion sticker (Form W-147) depending on the vehicle, as indicated below. The sticker should reference the recall number and the date the work is done.
 - For Recreational Vehicles, clean a spot and attach a completion sticker on the frontwall under the dash on the driver's side.
 - For Walk-in Vans, clean a spot and attach a completion sticker above the center of the driver's door.
 - For School and Shuttle buses, clean a spot and attach a completion sticker on the panel above the driver's sliding window.
 - For all other vehicles, clean a spot on the passenger door jamb and attach a completion sticker.
4. Remove the chocks from the tires.

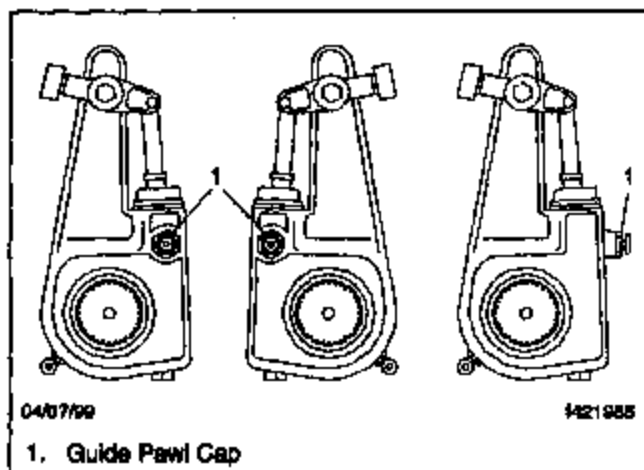


Fig. 1. Possible Guide Pawl Locations